

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-13, and 16-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 were previously cancelled and claims 14 and 15 are cancelled herein. Claims 3, 6, 7, and 13 have been amended and claims 23-29 are added herein. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 4, 6, 9-14, and 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eldridge, *et al.*, in view of one of both of Klocke, *et al.* and Brooks, *et al.*

Claims 3, 7, and 15 were objected to, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

Claim 3 (indicated as allowable) has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the original claim 3 and its parent claim 13. There were no intervening claims. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 3 is now allowable. New claim 23 depends from amended claim 3 and is otherwise identical to claim 4, and new claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 23 and are otherwise identical to claims 12 and 6 respectively. Therefore, it is submitted that new claims 23, 24, and 25 are also allowable. Likewise, new claim 26 depends from amended claim 3 and is otherwise identical to claim 14, and new claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is otherwise identical to claim 6. Therefore, it is also believed that new claims 26 and 27 are allowable.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of its original limitations plus all of the limitations of parent claim 13 and substantially all of the limitations of intervening claim 14 and is now believed allowable. New claim 28 includes the single limitation of the original claim 14 not included in rewritten claim 7.

Likewise, claim 13 has been amended to include all of its original limitations plus all of the limitations of claim 15 (indicated as allowable) and substantially all of the limitations of intervening claim 14 and is also now believed to be allowable. New claim 29 includes the single limitation of the original intervening claim 14 not included in rewritten claim 13.

All of the remaining claims 4, 6, 9-12, and 16-22 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 13 (indirect or allowable) and are also believed allowable for depending from a claim deemed allowable as well as their own limitations.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant requests that the Examiner please contact Applicant's attorney at the address below. In the event that the enclosed fees are insufficient, please charge any additional fees required to keep this application pending, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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